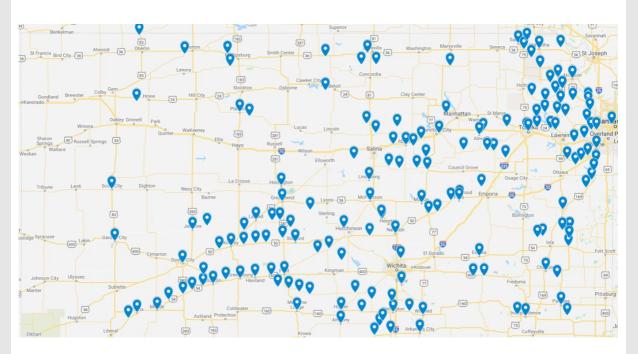


Office of Recovery Update: 10/5/20 - 10/9/20

Governor Kelly announces nearly \$50 million in broadband investments to serve over 160 locations.



This week Governor Laura Kelly announced 67 connectivity projects to expand broadband access across Kansas. These are part of the Connectivity program recommended by the SPARK taskforce and approved by the State Finance Council.

Many of these projects serve multiple locations, and the map above shows you all the areas impacted by these investments. In total, these investments will serve:

- 76,735 households
- 5.996 businesses
- **636 community anchor institutions** (schools, hospitals, libraries, public safety facilities etc.)

These are game-changing projects for Kansans. For example, in Dickinson County, Memorial Health System will soon be able to provide telehealth services to patients regardless of where they live in the county. This has the potential to speed up a patient's diagnosis, which can be **lifesaving**.

Another project will provide fixed wireless service to eight communities: Burton, Brookville, Lindsborg, Larned, Great Bend, Hosington, Gypsum, Bennington and Winfield. It installs critical infrastructure AND provides 12-month vouchers for students most in need to ensure they have internet service and equipment they need to participate in remote learning. Broadband access can be an issue of availability and affordability, and this project will address both those needs to ensure that **children truly have access to education**.

You can learn more about all these projects, by clicking <u>here</u>.

In addition to these projects, Governor Kelly announced the creation of the Office of Broadband to ensure statewide coordination of broadband efforts and develop strategies to achieve universal broadband access for Kansas homes and businesses.

Click here to watch Governor Kelly's announcement.

Upcoming SPARK Meetings:

The Office of Recovery will host the next SPARK meeting on **Thursday**, **October 22nd from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.** to provide an update on the investments made in all three funding rounds.

You can watch the livestream on **Governor Laura Kelly's YouTube Channel**.

Resources available to you:

We recognize it can be difficult to keep track of all the grant programs available to Kansans. Please visit https://covid.ks.gov/grant-applications/ to see what programs are currently accepting applications.

Thank you for your interest in our State's recovery efforts.

Julie L. Lorenz

Executive Director
Office of Recovery, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly

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